(a) whether the Army have received an offer from the Coca Cola Company to give educational scholarships to children of army employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how Government propose to utilise the offer fully as a welfare measure for the families of Army Jawans?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Coca Cola Company, India has made an offer to provide 500 scholarships of Rs. 5,000/- each to the children of Army personnel studying in Classes X to XII of Army Schools, being run by the Army Welfare Education Society, registered under the Societies Act. Applications will be called from the wards of army personnel and a list of children on merit cum means will be drawn up for consideration of award of scholarships.

News-items captioned 'Arms Deal in the making'

2165. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item in Frontline dated the 16th August, 2002 on 'Arms deal in the making'; and

(b) if so, what is the progress in this matter and the time-frame for induction of new artillery system?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) Various proposals to acquire state-of-the-art 155mm Artillery Guns are at present under consideration. No final decision has yet been taken in this regard.

Complaints received by Station Commander, Nasirabad

2166. SHRI MUNNAVVAR HASAN:
SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Station Commander of Nasirabad in